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SJC UPHOLDS CONVICTION IN BROCKTON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MURDER

BROCKTON – The Supreme Judicial Court has affirmed the conviction of Pierre Paul Cadet for first degree murder, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced today.

On September 26, 2004, Cadet stabbed his former girlfriend, Betina Francois, nine times with two different knives until she died. Ms. Francois was a 27-year old woman, who had been in a relationship with the defendant for three years. Cadet left a note at the murder scene, admitting that he did the stabbing. Cadet had killed her because he did not want to go to jail for violating the restraining order that prevented him from contacting her. Approximately 15 minutes after the stabbing, Cadet took the victim's car and drove from Brockton to Rhode Island, where he crashed the car. He also had knife wounds that he inflicted upon himself, as shown by evidence. Cadet was convicted of first degree murder on May 7, 2007.

The Supreme Judicial Court issued its ruling November 18th, affirming the conviction. The SJC ruled that the trial judge made no error when he found that the courtroom was open to the public during trial and that the prosecutor's cross-examination and closing argument did not require reversal where the defendant made no objection and the evidence was so strong. The Court also found that when trial counsel for the defendant presented evidence of the defendant's injuries, he did not act in a manner that caused reversal. Finally, the Court found no error in trial counsel's presentation of the defendant's testimony about the events before the victim died. The Court found that the jury instructions were correct.

"Ms. Francois was building a full life in Brockton, contributing to the community, and following her dreams," DA Cruz said. "Her life was brutally taken from her, despite all her attempts to free herself from this violent relationship. I am pleased that the SJC has affirmed this conviction and that justice has been done for Ms. Francois."

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